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Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 INRE-00
SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /064 R

DRAFTED BY EB/TRA:JRATWOOD:BD
APPROVED BY EB/TRA:JRATWOOD
EUR/WE:EBIEGEL
CAB:DFARMER (SUBS)
----------077984 272355Z /61
O 272321Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PAN AM CHANGE OF GAUGE

1. DEPASSTSEC ATWOOD SPOKE WITH DE SEDOUY (QUAI D'ORSAY) LATE ON APRIL 27. ATWOOD EXPLAINED THAT US REMAINED FIRM IN ITS POSITION THAT CHANGE OF GAUGE WAS AUTHORIZED, AND HAD SO ADVISED PAN AM. FURTHER, PAN AM HAS INDICATED IT WILL COMMENCE OPERATION MAY 1. US SINCERELY HOPES THAT FRENCH WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH OPERATION. US WILL SUPPORT PAN AM, AND CAB HAS AUTHORIZED DEPARTMENT TO ADVISE FRENCH THAT RETALIATION WILL BE TAKEN IF THERE IS INTERFERENCE.

2. DE SEDOUY MADE NON-COMMITTAL RESPONSE, INDICATING HE IS STILL REVIEWING THE MATTER. HE SAID FRENCH HAD
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RECEIVED REPORT THAT AUSTRIA HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN SECURING COMPENSATION FROM U.S. FOR THIRD-COUNTRY CHANGE OF GAUGE. ATWOOD SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THIS, ALTHOUGH HE WAS REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT THE REPORT WAS INCORRECT.

3. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO ADVISE DE SEDOUY THAT, AS INDICATED BY ATWOOD, AUSTRIA HAD NOT SECURED ANY

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COMPENSATION FOR THIRD-COUNTRY CHANGE OF GAUGE. FACTS ARE AS FOLLOWS: PAN AM RECENTLY PROPOSED SERVICE FROM NEW YORK THROUGH LONDON TO VIENNA, WITH CHANGE OF GAUGE IN

LONDON AND CARRIAGE OF FIFTH-FREEDOM TRAFFIC BETWEEN LONDON AND GENEVA. AUSTRIANS OPPOSED OPERATION, PRINCIPALLY ON GROUND THAT FIFTH FREEDOM CARRIAGE WAS HARMFUL TO ITS AIRLINE. CHANGE OF GAUGE ISSUE WAS MENTIONED BUT ONLY SECONDARILY. BEFORE MATTER COULD BE FULLY DISCUSSED BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS, PAN AM CHANGED ITS OPERATING PROPOSAL, MOOTING THE ISSUE. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD U.S. HAVE GRANTED AUSTRIANS A QUID PRO QUO FOR CHANGE OF GAUGE.

4. IN SAME ATWOOD-DE SEDOUY TELECON, ATWOOD STATED THAT U.S. AGENCIES HAD AGREED THAT FRENCH WERE ENTITLED TO PROMPT SUPPLY OF STATISTICS RE TWA OPERATIONS EAST OF PARIS. U.S. HOPED TO BEAT ITS PRIOR COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE STATISTICS WITHIN ONE MONTH. DE SEDOUY EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR THIS. VANCE

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: N/A
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SAS ID: 3036410
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TAGS: EAIR, FR, US, PANAM
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